Statement

Export Promotion measures implemented by the Government are :—

1. CCS rates have been substantially increased with effect from 1st January, 1984. These rates were continued during 1985. These rates have been extended upto 31st December, 1986 subject to review to be completed by March 1986.

2. Import entitlements under REP Licences have been liberalised vide Appendix 17 of the Import-Export Policy for 1985—88. Some items of raw material/fabrics are permitted to be imported under the Advance Licensing Scheme and Duty Free REP Scheme vide Appendices 19 and 21 of Import-Export Policy for 1985——88.

3. Under the 100 per cent Export Oriented Units and Free Trade Zone Schemes, facilities for liberal import of capital goods and raw materials along with many other concessions are given with necessary export obligation.

4. Foreign Collaboration is allowed to modernise indigenous textile machinery to enable exporters to have access to modern machinery. Sophisticated machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed to be imported on OGL. As many as 114 machines necessary for garment and hosiery manufactures have been placed under the OGL, 97 of them enjoying concessional import duty vide Appendix 1 part B of Import-Export Policy for 1985-86.

5. Government has announced introduction of new Import-Export Pass Book Scheme for manufacturer-exporters under the new Import-Export Policy.

6. Government has decided to set up a Fashion Technology Institute in Delhi for education, research, service and training in the areas of fashion design especially for the garment trade.

7. Government has been giving additional assistance for new products and new markets. 10 per cent higher REP is given for new products and new markets.

8. Government has been giving liberal assistance for sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, Buyer-Sellor Meets, participation in internaional fairs and exhibitions, etc.

9. Duty draw back rates for garments have been liberalised.

Apparel Export Promotion Council

2206. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state to refer to the answer to Unstarred Quesion 891 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have issued any letter to Apparel Export Promotion Council after 10th May, 1983 with regard to the penalty amount of Rs. 3.12 crores as on the 31st December, 1984 and interest thereon upto 31st December, 1984 and if so what are the details thereof;

(b) what was the amount and the principal and the interest thereon accrued upto 31st December, 1984 on 31st December, 1985; and

(c) by whom the disbursements will be decided and who will sign cheques for the above amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) On 28th October, 1985 the Government wrote to the Apparel Export Promotion Council asking them to keep the forfeited amount in the Bank in such a manner that the signature of a Government nominee would be necessary before withdrawal any money from the fund.

(b) As on 31st December, 1985 the amount accumulated by way of forfieted Bank Guarantees was Rs. 401,81,

lakhs and the interest accrued thereon was Rs. 78 lakhs (figures are provisional).

(c) Under the present arrangements, the cheques are signed by responsible members of the Executive Committee and the officials of the Apparel Export Promotion Council.

News-item captioned "Ganapathi Export Director held"

2207. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item capitioned "Ganapathi Export Director Held" which appeared in the Economic Times of 5th March, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take strict action against such other exporters in Calcutta who have indulged in fraudulent imports particularly of Silk Yarns without payment of import duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Customs Officials in Calcutta have detected a case of suspected evasion of customs duty by M/s. Ganapathi Exports Limited amounting to Rs. 67 lakhs by mis-declaring a consignment of prime quality G.P. sheets as secondary and defective grade G.P. sheets. Investigations in the case have revealed that the invoice value was declared at £ 125 per Metric Tonne instead of the actual value of U.S. 481 Per Metric Tonne. Shri Om Prakash Agarwal, Director of the firm has been arrested.

(c) Stringent action is taken against any person indulging in fraudulent imports. Apart from confiscation of goods involved and imposition of personal penalties, prosecution in the Courts of law is pursued and in appropriate cases detention under COFEPOSA is also resorted to.

Defrauding of workers by certain Garment Export concerns

2208. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of defrauding of workers by certain garment export concerns in Delhi in the matter of payment of workers salary and bonus;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of employees of M/s. Maharani of India, Maya Puri, New Delhi have resigned or were retrenched from service during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the workers of the above concern have not been paid their salaries and bonus dues inspite of repeated requests; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Information which is being collected from the Delhi Administration will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) to (d) According to Delhi Administration during the period 1982-83 to 1984-85, 50 workers of the Establishment who either resigned or whose services were terminated left after collecting their legal dues from the management. However, a complaint was received regarding non-payment of bonus to workers by the management for the year 1974-75 onwards. This is being processed under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Legal action would be taken in case any irregularity is found.